



city of
greenville

News Release

“Animal Connections” Explores the Human–Animal Bond

GREENVILLE, S.C. - “Animal Connections: Our Journey Together,” a custom-built exhibition from the Smithsonian housed on an 18-wheel truck that expands into 1,000 square feet of space, will make a special stop on its traveling tour at the Greenville Zoo on Monday, March 31 and Tuesday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The free exhibit will be located between the Greenville Zoo and Cleveland Park playground.

In celebrating 70 years of service to the local community, Cleveland Park Animal Hospitals worked with the City of Greenville and Greenville Zoo to bring the Smithsonian exhibit to Greenville. “Cleveland Park Animal Hospitals, which includes Cleveland Park Animal Hospital, Cleveland Park Animal Hospital of Travelers Rest and Cleveland Park East Animal Hospital of Simpsonville, has 70 community service opportunities and projects planned as ways to say ‘thank you’ to the wonderful people of Greenville,” said Dr. Ben Phillips, Cleveland Park Animal Hospitals Veterinarian. “This exhibit is a fun and educational way for us to give something back and show the community how much we appreciate its support.”

Divided into five sections, the exhibition focuses on animals in the home, on the farm, at the zoo, in the wild and at the veterinary clinic. Visitors are offered a variety of ways to learn through informative displays, dynamic videos and interactive experiences. In the home section, visitors will learn how to select the right pet and the possible dangers to pets, such as household items like plants and holiday decorations and giving them food prepared for family members. A display in the farm section highlights the mobile clinics that large-animal veterinarians stock with a variety of tools—from dental speculums to cow magnets—to ensure they are prepared for any procedure. A virtual clinic at the center of the

exhibition provides visitors the opportunity to play veterinarian. Through touch screens, they can examine and diagnose what ails their virtual patients—a dog, a piglet and a cheetah.

The free exhibition explores the shared responsibility for animals' health and well-being. It also highlights the varied roles veterinarians play in the health of animals. Videos showcase that even suburban areas have a great diversity of wildlife—from the squirrels trying to break into a birdfeeder to a bear lounging in a hammock.

“We are thrilled that Greenville was chosen as a tour stop for this dynamic and interactive exhibit,” said Dr. Heather Miller, Greenville Zoo Deputy Administrator for Animal Health. “The exhibit will provide a fun and educational way for guests of all ages to learn more about veterinary medicine.”

“Animal Connections” was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) to mark the 150th anniversary of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) in 2013. The exhibition is made possible through the generous support of founding sponsor Zoetis, Inc., and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AMFV).

For the safety of animals and people, visitors are asked not to bring pets. Visitors to “Animal Connections” can continue the learning experience online at animalconnections.com. The site includes resources on animal care and careers in veterinary medicine.

About Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES)

[SITES](http://sites.si.edu) has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C. for 60 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play.

About American Veterinary Medical Association

The [AVMA](#), established in 1863, is a not-for-profit association representing more than 85,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia and uniformed services. The mission of the association is to improve animal and human health and advance the veterinary medical profession.

About American Veterinary Medical Foundation

The [AVMF](#) is the charitable arm of the AVMA. For 50 years, AVMF has been dedicated to embracing and advancing the well-being and medical care of animals. Charitable contributions and support to the Foundation help veterinarians help animals. The AVMF, a three-time, four-star rated nonprofit by Charity Navigator, has awarded more than \$50 million in grants since it began in 1963.

About Zoetis

[Zoetis](#) (zō-EH-tis) is a leading animal health company dedicated to supporting customers and businesses focused on raising and caring for livestock and companion animals. Building on a 60-year history as the animal health business of Pfizer, Zoetis discovers, develops, manufactures and markets veterinary vaccines and medicines, complemented by diagnostic products and genetic tests.

About the Greenville Zoo

Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the Greenville Zoo is rated one of the best tourist attractions in South Carolina, attracting over 270,000 people annually. Operated by the City of Greenville, the 14-acre facility features wildlife from around the world, including elephants, giraffes, monkeys and giant tortoises. Visitors can also enjoy one of the zoo's most popular exhibits, the Reptile Building, which is home to a variety of lizards, frogs, turtles and snakes.

The Greenville Zoo is open seven days a week, except on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Zoo entry ticket sales close at 4:15 p.m. Admission to the Greenville Zoo is \$8.75 for adults and \$5.50 for children

(ages 3-15 years old). For more information about the Greenville Zoo, visit www.greenvillezoo.com or follow the zoo on Facebook at facebook.com/greenvillezoo.

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